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MINISTRY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS

1999-1999 Business plan

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Publication

MINISTRY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

1998-1999 Business Plan



Ontario

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Hon. Dianne
Cunningham

The government of Ontario is committed to maintaining a strong and prosperous Ontario within a united Canada. The Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs contributes to this commitment by working to promote practical changes that strengthen the Canadian federation and safeguard national unity.

Our ministry provides strategic advice to the Premier and Cabinet on national unity and on Ontario's relations with other provincial governments and the federal government. Our commitment is to provide the Government with effective advice that advances Ontario's priorities.

Over the past year the pressures for change in the way our federation operates have increased throughout Canada. In response to these pressures, our ministry has played a significant role in some key initiatives, such as the National Child Benefit. The ministry is also representing Ontario in negotiations with the federal government and other provinces on a framework agreement for Canada's social union.

A significant national unity initiative for our ministry was the consultation process on the Calgary Framework, known as *Ontario Speaks*. Through our *Ontario Speaks* consultations, we asked for the views of individual Ontarians on the subject of the Canadian federation and national unity. We heard from more than 75,000 Ontarians about their vision for Canada, and their commitment to working together to keep Canada strong and united. We are grateful to all those who participated in the process.

Throughout 1998/99 the ministry will continue to listen to Ontarians as the province contributes constructively and effectively to strengthening Canada's federation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Dianne" on the top line and "Cunningham" on the bottom line.

The Honourable Dianne Cunningham
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

MINISTRY VISION

The vision of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs is that Ontario will continue to play an important role in strengthening the federation and preserving national unity, while promoting a strong and prosperous Ontario.

Strategic advice from the ministry will support and advance the government's priorities of encouraging economic growth and jobs, and improving the efficiency and accountability of government. This includes ensuring that the federal government treats Ontarians fairly.

The ministry is working with federal and provincial governments to strengthen Canada by improving the way in which federal and provincial governments work together to provide social programs for Canadians. This process will eliminate waste and overlap among orders of government and strengthen the federation.

The ministry also works with other ministries of the Government to promote Ontario's interests and help ensure that the people of Ontario receive adequate funding from the federal government for their social programs, such as health care.



ANNUAL REPORT ON KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS

1997-98 Achievements

The ministry made significant progress in the course of the year on a number of intergovernmental issues by providing timely and effective strategic policy advice to the Premier, Cabinet and the Minister on national unity and other matters involving federal-provincial relations.

The Council on Social Policy Renewal dealt with a number of important issues this year. In particular, agreement was reached on a joint approach to a National Child Benefit, and a broad policy framework for a National Children's Agenda was developed. The ministry supports the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in her role as Ontario's representative on the Council.

Premiers of eight provinces and two territories agreed in September 1997 to the "Calgary Framework for Discussion on National Unity". The ministry led a public consultation process involving Ontarians on the Calgary framework, known as *Ontario Speaks*. In May the ministry released a report on the consultation process documenting the positive public reaction to the framework among those who participated in the process. On May 26 the Ontario Legislature overwhelmingly endorsed the framework.

In November 1997 the Premier along with other Premiers and Territorial Leaders had a successful meeting with national Aboriginal leaders.

At the meeting of First Ministers in December 1997, First Ministers, with the exception of the Premier of Quebec, agreed to begin negotiations on a framework agreement for Canada's social union. Negotiations began under the auspices of the Council on Social Policy Renewal. This agreement to negotiate represents a major step forward in the renewal of the federation that Ontario has been promoting for some time.

At the 1997 Annual Premiers' Conference, key priorities were jobs and growth, and the well-being of children. Premiers agreed to move forward on a number of significant issues, including youth employment and the reform of the social union.

The ministry continued to provide strategic advice to other ministries on the conduct of their intergovernmental relations in pursuit of fair share of federal funding for Ontarians.

In carrying out its work, the ministry successfully implemented a strategy to reduce costs that realized savings without significant impact on the quality and efficiency of its work.

1998-99 Commitments

The ministry will continue to provide effective, timely advice to the Premier, Cabinet and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in order to further Ontario's intergovernmental objectives and support the priorities of the Government.

The ministry will provide support at intergovernmental meetings in order to advance Ontario's intergovernmental objectives.

The ministry will continue to provide strategic advice to other ministries on the conduct of their intergovernmental relations.

The ministry will bring the *Ontario Speaks* consultations on the Calgary framework on national unity to successful completion.

CORE BUSINESSES

The ministry's core business is to develop strategic policy advice for the Minister, the Premier and Cabinet on leading intergovernmental issues.

Within this broad core business the ministry has four principle functions.

First, the ministry provides strategic policy advice to the Minister and the Premier on national unity.

Ontarians expect the Ontario Government to play a constructive role in defending Canadian unity. The ministry follows developments in Quebec with interest and works with other provinces on initiatives such as the Calgary framework, to represent Ontario's priorities on this important issue.

The ministry seeks to protect the interests of Ontarians by ensuring Ontario's positions on Ontario-federal government issues are strongly advanced, including the demand that federal government programs treat Ontarians equitably. In order to accomplish this, the ministry develops strategies and provides advice to help the government effectively conduct Ontario's relations with the federal government on leading issues. Some priority issues for the ministry are adequate funding for health and social programs, labour market training negotiations, immigration issues, and employment insurance issues.

As well, the ministry works with the federal and provincial governments to clarify roles and responsibilities in order to determine which order of government is best suited to deliver various programs. This process will help reduce wasteful overlap and duplication and promote greater efficiency, while maintaining high quality service to Ontarians.

To advance this work, the ministry organizes and coordinates Ontario's participation in First Ministers' meetings and Annual Premiers' Conferences, providing support to the Premier and the Minister for these and other major intergovernmental meetings.

KEY STRATEGIES

The ministry will continue to pursue excellence in providing strategic advice, information and support to the government on intergovernmental issues.

In working to strengthen the federation, the ministry will continue to focus on practical administrative changes that will encourage the cooperation of different levels of government and result in greater effectiveness and accountability in government.

At intergovernmental meetings, the ministry will work to support the government's priorities, particularly as they relate to jobs and the economy, health, education, and personal safety.

The ministry will continue to cooperate with other ministries of the government, and to assist them in responding promptly and appropriately to intergovernmental concerns.

In delivering its services, the ministry will continue to look for new, innovative ways to provide better service to the Minister and Premier. Results of the ministry's performance measures will be used to find ways to work effectively with ministry clients and partners in the development of strategies and policy advice on leading intergovernmental issues.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	98/99 Commitments
Ontario Government shows strong leadership when promoting a united Canada and protecting Ontario's priorities.	<p>MIA will evaluate achievement of its objectives at key intergovernmental meetings such as the Annual Premiers' Conference, First Ministers' Meetings, and meetings of the Council on Social Policy Renewal.</p> <p>The <i>Ontario Speaks</i> process will be evaluated on completion.</p>	<p>Achievement of objectives at intergovernmental meetings.</p> <p>The <i>Ontario Speaks</i> consultations will be assessed in terms of achievement of the outcome of the process and availability of opportunities to participate.</p>	<p>Evaluation of achievement of objectives at key intergovernmental meetings.</p> <p>Ontario Speaks process successfully completed and evaluated.</p>

1997-98 MINISTRY SPENDING BY CORE BUSINESS - INTERIM ACTUALS*

Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs

Operating	\$5.0 million
	40 staff

Strategy and Policy Development

Operating	\$4.0 million
	38 staff

Internal Administration

Operating	\$1.0 million
	2 staff

Note: Staff numbers are shown as full-time equivalents

*PSAAB based

1998-99 MINISTRY APPROVED ALLOCATIONS BY CORE BUSINESS - PLAN*

Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs

Operating	\$4.4 million 39 staff
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Strategy and Policy Development

Operating	\$3.5 million 38 staff
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Internal Administration

Operating	\$0.9 million 1 staff
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Note: Staff numbers are shown as full-time equivalents

* PSAAB based

WHO TO CALL

Questions or comments about the ministry's business plan are welcomed.

Alan Stillar
Communications Advisor
Phone: (416)325-9079
Fax: (416)325-4788
E-mail: stillaa@gov.on.ca

or

Daniel Atlin
Minister's Office
Phone: (416)326-1625
Fax: (416)326-1638
E-mail: atlind@gov.on.ca

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